

Applic. No. 10/608,571

Amdt. dated December 16, 2004

Reply to Office action of June 16, 2004

Claim Amendments

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A method of removing moisture from items of clothing, which comprises:

bringing an item of clothing into contact with at least one absorbent body of an absorbent material in the form of a continuous strand;

moving the at least one absorbent body and the item of clothing at the same speed; and

subsequently ~~separated~~ separating the item of clothing from the at least one absorbent body.

Claim 2 (original): The method according to claim 1, which further comprises removing moisture from the absorbent body following contact with the item of clothing.

Claim 3 (original): The method according to claim 2, which further comprises:

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providing the absorbent body with a plurality of sections; and

successively bringing individual sections of the absorbent body into contact with the item of clothing, separating the section from the item of clothing, and removing moisture from the item of clothing.

Claim 4 (currently amended): The method according to claim 3, which further comprises:

~~providing the absorbent body as a continuous strand, and~~

circulating the absorbent body to successively move the individual sections of the absorbent body to the item of clothing and to a configuration for removing moisture from a section of the absorbent body.

Claim 5 (original): The method according to claim 2, which further comprises removing moisture from the absorbent body by squeezing.

Claim 6 (original): The method according to claim 1, which further comprises rolling the at least one absorbent body on the item of clothing.

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Claim 7 (original): The method according to claim 1, which further comprises bringing the item of clothing into contact with at least two absorbent bodies separated from one another from different sides of the item of clothing.

Claim 8 (original): The method according to claim 1, which further comprises forcing the item of clothing into contact with the at least one absorbent body with a gas jet.

Claim 9 (original): The method according to claim 1, which further comprises subjecting the item of clothing to action of at least one gas jet acting transversely to a surface of the item of clothing following contact with the absorbent body.

Claim 10 (original): The method according to claim 1, which further comprises:

bringing the absorbent body into contact with a batch of items of clothing section-by-section; and

moving the sections of the absorbent body brought into contact with at least one item of clothing to a collecting location at which, following removal of moisture from a last item of clothing in the batch, an entirety of the absorbent body has moisture removed from the absorbent body.

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Claim 11 (original): A method of removing moisture from items of clothing, which comprises:

bringing an item of clothing into contact with at least one absorbent body of an absorbent material in the form of a continuous strand and having a plurality of sections; and

circulating the absorbent body to successively move individual sections of the absorbent body into contact with the item of clothing and to a configuration for removing moisture from a section of the absorbent body.

separating the section from the item of clothing;

subjecting the item of clothing to action of at least one gas jet acting transversely to a surface of the item of clothing

following contact with the absorbent body; and

removing moisture from the absorbent body following contact with the item of clothing.

Claim 12 (currently amended): A configuration for removing moisture from items of clothing, comprising:

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at least one absorbent body of an absorbent material in the form of a continuous strand being brought into contact with an item of clothing and being moved at the same speed as the item of clothing; and

a contacting device adapted to contact an item of clothing with said at least one absorbent body and to separate the item of clothing from said at least one absorbent body.

Claim 13 (original): The configuration according to claim 12,
~~wherein said absorbent body is of a microfiber material.~~

Claim 14 (original): The configuration according to claim 12, further comprising a transporting device moving a plurality of items of clothing successively in a direction of said at least one absorbent body and away therefrom.

Claim 15 (original): The configuration according to claim 14, wherein:

said contacting device has a pressure-exerting roller spaced apart from said at least one absorbent body, and

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said transporting device moves the items of clothing between
said at least one absorbent body and said pressure-exerting
roller.

Claim 16 (original): A configuration for removing moisture
from items of clothing, comprising:

at least one absorbent body of a microfiber material;

a contacting device adapted to contact an item of clothing
with said at least one absorbent body and to separate the item
of clothing from said at least one absorbent body, said
contacting device having a pressure-exerting roller spaced
apart from said at least one absorbent body, and

a transporting device moving a plurality of items of clothing
successively in a direction of said at least one absorbent

body and away therefrom and between said at least one
absorbent body and said pressure-exerting roller.